CHOCOLATE CRACKLES MAKE THE HOLIDAYS SWEETER WITH THESE COOKIES {page 11}

THE KISS

A MILESTONE FOR EFRON AND PFEIFFER {page 8}

WINNIPEG metro®

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
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News worth sharing.

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Candlelight. Reflection

▶ Nelson McIntyre Collegiate student Ché Rosie Carr lights a candle yesterday during a ceremony marking the 22nd anniversary of 1989's Montreal massacre. She decided to be a part of the event after her sister, Anna, encouraged her to attend. More on the anniversary, page 4.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

Women remembered at ceremony

About 300 women attended a sunrise memorial at the Legislative Building yesterday to honour 14 young women killed 22 years ago at École Polytechnique in Montreal. In 1989, gunman Marc Lepine marched into the school and began shooting women in the engineering department because he felt they were feminists trying to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

Division over village Shoppers expansion

Employees of Movie Village and Music Trader directed to not speak to media

The possible expansion of a local drug store in Osborne Village already has area residents talking.

The Shoppers Drug Mart on the corner of Osborne Street and Roslyn Road is looking to expand its current 10,000 square feet by adding a partial-second storey, and a further 7,600 square feet at street level going towards River Avenue. In order to expand southwards, Shoppers will have to buy out Vietnamese restaurant Vi-Ann and video store Movie Village.

"It's not necessary," said Allyna Ward, a two-year resident. "It detracts from the vibrancy and fun of the village ... We don't need (an expansion). It is already open 24 hours. It seems excessive."

The company also wants to include a covered walkway from the store to Safeway.

Bev Peters, who lives in Wolseley, but comes into the village frequently, sees this as an issue of pedestrian access.

"This is a thoroughfare for those who live and work in the area. It's a pedestrian zone. I'm not in favour of big box store expansions in the core."

The owner of Movie Village, who lives in British Columbia, could not be reached for comment. The owner of Vi-Ann was also unavailable.

An open house was held at Holy Rosary Church yesterday evening to outline the development. The City of Winnipeg board of adjustment will hold a review of the extension on Dec. 21.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

Reaction from residents

- **Bev Peters:** "They call this Osborne Village. It has nice little shops and I don't think we need a block-long Shoppers."
- **George Green:** "It's a great store. Great service.... It's needed."
- **Janice Roch:** "I imagine a lot of people will use (the expanded) Shoppers Drug Mart. There are a lot of seniors and retired people in the area."
- **Connie S.:** "I think (the expansion) is O.... It's not as complete as other Shoppers Drug Mart in other areas. If they want to expand, I don't care. I'm more concerned about the crosswalk. People use the area as a thoroughfare."

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Counterfeit goods harm us all: RCMP

About $1 million worth of counterfeit goods were confiscated in Manitoba in 2011, RCMP said yesterday at a press conference where they displayed a portion of the seized merchandise.

Cpl. John Montgomery of the RCMP federal enforcement section detailed the impact of counterfeit goods not only on retailers, but also on public health and safety, since the products are often substandard.

Pharmaceuticals, electronics and clothing were among the goods on display. Winnipeg Jets jerseys were high on the counterfeit list, Montgomery said.

Since 2009, RCMP have confiscated more than $56.6 million worth of illegal goods across Canada.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Cpl. John Montgomery shows a fake Jets jersey.

Arrest made in weekend homicide

Jordan Gregory Charney, 24, was charged with second-degree murder on Sunday in the death of Sheldon Kostenko, who died as a result of "extensive" upper-body injuries, Winnipeg police said yesterday.

ELISHA DACEY

CRYSTAL LADERAS/FOR METRO

▶ Firefighters battle a blaze on Monday at Logan Radiator. Suspicious fires were set at the business in June and July.

Police probe gang link to blaze that destroyed shop

Damage at Logan Radiator estimated at $500,000 It's the third time this year that firefighters have doused flames at the auto-repair shop

Winnipeg firefighters were kept busy Monday night after a blaze destroyed a radiator shop.

Logan Radiator on Logan Avenue went up in flames at about 8:30 p.m. Employees watched outside as black smoke spewed into the clear cold air more than six metres high.

Power in the area was knocked out and Manitoba Hydro was having trouble restoring it. Smoke was hindering their access to a specific power pole, Metro Winnipeg was told. Police officers went door-to-door to offer shelter on a nearby bus for those whose heat was not working.

There were no apparent injuries and the business appeared to be closed when it caught fire. Smoke could be seen all the way down Keewatin Street.

One employee, who asked not to be named, said the shop has been firebombed in the past. The arson task force is investigating the blaze, police said yesterday. Earlier this year, the business was targeted during the summer's escalating violence between the Rock Machine and Hells Angels gangs. On June 14 and July 6, suspicious fires were ignited at the business.

ELISHA DACEY AND CRYSTAL LADERAS

1 news

U.S. presidents seem to go grey quicker than the rest of us, but a new study shows they may in fact live longer than the rest of us. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Hundreds gather to mark the anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Soviets know our North well

- Cold War fears bolstered: Subs patrolled Arctic
- Their maps were more detailed than Canadian ones

Shades of Red October.

Cold-War-era nautical charts appear to support the widely held belief that Soviet nuclear submarines routinely patrolled the Canadian Arctic during the Cold War.

What's more, the charts are still in use by Russian vessels because they are more detailed than Canadian ones.

"I can't help but think back to The Hunt For Red October, where Sean Connery plays the captain of a Soviet nuclear missile submarine and relies on the accuracy of Soviet charts to avoid a torpedo that's been shot at his ship," said Arctic expert Michael Byers. "These charts indicate that the Soviets were in fact that competent."

300

"At the current rate of charting, it will take 300 years for the Canadian Hydrographic Service to bring all our charts for the Canadian archipelago to world standards," said Michael Byers.

Photos of the charts, seen by The Canadian Press, suggest Russian mariners have for decades possessed detailed knowledge of crucial internal waterways such as the Northwest Passage.

The charts, covering strategic Arctic waterways, appear to be clearly marked with Soviet insignia, including the red star and the hammer and sickle.

Byers said: "The Soviet navy was extremely capable and also was willing to take considerable risk.

"Sending submarines into the Canadian archipelago, which was heavily monitored by NATO, thousands of miles away from Soviet assistance, was a perilous thing to do.

"It was a phenomenal accomplishment."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homecoming. Tim's time

▶ Lisa Frye, a civilian member of the Canadian Forces personnel support programs division who worked at the Tim Hortons in Kandahar, holds a box of the last Timbits to be made there. She arrived in Edmonton yesterday.

Timbits? Just call 'em spoils of war

After the Tim Hortons in Kandahar closed last month, those who had worked there decided to bake up some keepsakes. The last batch of Timbits ever made there landed at the Edmonton airport yesterday on a flight bringing not only soldiers home but also many civilians who staffed the store. The Timbits were frozen and will be kept as war souvenirs.

An app for Ronnie Mac

Ronald McDonald House has launched Kidscape on iTunes, an app made by kids to help kids.

It's a gaming app featuring images drawn by kids staying at Ronald McDonald Houses — for families of kids being treated at area hospitals.

App prices: Kidscape City for $0.99, Kidscape Farm for $4.99 and Kidscape Space for $19.99.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Issue won't go away

Stephen Harper heads to the White House today to unveil a long-awaited border-security agreement with U.S. President Barack Obama.

But the fate of the $7-billion Keystone XL pipeline is sure to be discussed at some point.

The project was shelved at least temporarily by the Obama administration a month ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories not welcome as women mourn massacre victims

Hundreds of women gathered on Parliament Hill yesterday to mark the slaying of 14 women in Montreal 22 years ago.

They are angry with the Harper government over its decision to abolish the long-gun registry.

Conservatives were not invited to the event.

Gun-control advocate Wendy Cukier said the Dec. 6 anniversary of the mass shooting at the École Polytechnique has a dual meaning. "More than ever before, we must mourn but we must also work for change," she told the crowd, many waving placards with "Save the gun registry" slogans.

"We have to stand together like today, bravely, against a government that is turning back the clock on women's rights."

NDP LEADER NYCOLE TURMEL

Friends and relatives of the slain women placed roses into an urn and posters bearing their smiling faces were held aloft by the crowd.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students to be occupied

Occupy demonstrations will be the focal point of a new university course being offered in Calgary.

Starting in January, Mount Royal University assistant professor Roberta Lexier will begin teaching the Occupy Wall Street course.

"It really demonstrates that the issues we are dealing in our world are not simple," she said.

JEREMY NOLAIS

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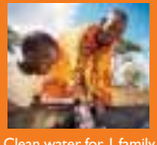
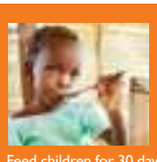

Clean water for 1 family
$100 (1362)


Feed children for 30 days
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Educate a girl
$60 (2469)

3 soccer balls
$30 (1909)

3 warm blankets
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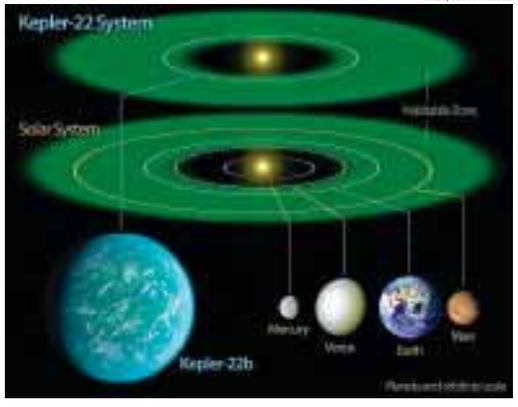
Search for E.T. is back on

News of 'Earth's twin' has science world excited ◆ Kepler-22b could support life ◆ NASA has reported 54 potential Earth-like candidates

NASA/GETTY IMAGES



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

"The tremendous growth in the number of Earth-size candidates tells us that we're honing in on the planets Kepler was designed to detect: those that are not only Earth-size, but also are potentially habitable."

NATALIE BATALHA, DEPUTY SCIENCE TEAM LEADER AT NASA'S AMES RESEARCH CENTER

The first confirmed planet that could be "Earth's twin" seems to have a lot going for it.

It apparently has a comfy 21 C surface temperature, a rocky surface, an ocean, a sun to orbit and a position smack in the middle of the habitable "Goldilocks" zone in relation to that sun (neither too hot nor too cold).

All this is sheer scientific speculation about the planet called Kepler-22b, but it's enough to make NASA celebrate.

"This is a major milestone on the road to finding Earth's twin," said Douglas Hudgins, Kepler program scientist at NASA's Washington headquarters.

"I think there are two things that are really exciting about Kepler-22b," said Natalie Batalha, the deputy science team leader at NASA's Ames Research Center. "One is that it's right in the middle of this habitable zone.

"The second thing that's really exciting is it's orbiting a star very, very similar to our own sun. This is a solar analogue, almost a solar twin, very similar to our own sun and you've got a planet 2.4 times the size of the Earth right smack in the habitable zone."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

Police recover 2 stolen dogs

Police say two of four British bulldog puppies stolen from an Ajax, Ont., store have been recovered. Police say someone forced their way into The Puppy Store early Monday and made off with the four puppies.

Investigators located one of the pups — valued at $2,000 each — for sale on the Internet website Kijiji. That led to the arrest of two people at a Toronto restaurant and the recovery of one puppy. A second puppy was found during a raid on an Ajax home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mayor missing in Arctic

Search teams are still looking for the mayor of an Arctic hamlet who hasn't been seen since he went caribou hunting alone 10 days ago.

Jamesie Kootoo, who is 67, is both mayor and coroner for the Baffin Island community of Kimmirut in Nunavut.

RCMP believe he wasn't carrying a lot of survival gear.

Rescue teams have conducted numerous ground and air searches, but have been hampered by stormy weather and rough terrain.

Kootoo is an experienced hunter and has been missing before — the last time he had a fractured pelvis and still survived.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man dies in bike crash

Authorities say an 18-year-old Washington state man is dead after he crashed his motorcycle a half-hour after passing his motorcycle-licence test.

Bellingham Police spokesman Mark Young says David Swift and his brother were both on motorcycles when the crash happened Saturday.

He says Swift had just passed a car and was waving on his brother when he lost control, hit a curb and slid. Paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Climate talks stall in Durban

An all-encompassing climate deal "may be beyond our reach for now," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said yesterday as China and India delivered a setback to European plans to negotiate a new treaty that would bind all parties to their pledges on greenhouse-gas emissions.

The European "road map" toward a new accord that would take effect after 2020 is at the centre of negotiations among 194 countries at a UN climate conference in the South African city of Durban.

It has been presented as a condition for Europe to expand its emissions reduction targets under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which expires next year.

As the conference moved into high gear, EU and U.S. officials said that China made it clear in private meetings that it will not accept international limits on its carbon emissions in the future.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WINNIPEG - MANITOBA
The downturn in the economy has affected most people and their ability to get a car and automotive credit. Credit agencies have become very critical with credit scores and many lenders have significantly changed the criteria for someone to qualify for an auto loan. Many car shoppers today are being turned down because of their credit history. Credit Amnesty 2011 has signed an agreement with a CREDIT TO ANYONE REGARDLESS OF CREDIT SCORE. Every and any past credit problem will be accepted and approved regardless of bankruptcy, divorce, tax liens, judgements, vehicle repossessions and charge offs.

Bank Authorized Processors On Site for Instant Approvals
The management and finance staff of Credit Amnesty 2011 were flown to Toronto and trained to be lending representatives for a national leader who has been lending to credit challenged consumers in an effort to give consumers the opportunity to re-establish their credit one payment at a time. Credit Amnesty 2011 will now deliver credit approvals to every consumer they enter into the patented Credit Approval Processing System within 60 seconds. Doug MacIver, General Manager at Credit Amnesty 2011 proudly says, "we provide opportunity where others can't."

EVERYONE APPROVED!
With our patented finance program, purchasing your vehicle is hassle free. Most people have credit issues! At Ride Time... "THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE!" No co-signer required.

Life Changing Program
Without our product, consumers are often unable to purchase a vehicle or they purchase an unreliable one and are not provided the opportunity to improve their credit standing. As we report to all major financial national credit reporting agencies, a significant number of our customers improve their lives by improving their credit score and move on to more traditional sources of financing. We have the late model vehicles people want and the ones that will qualify for this type of funding. The only thing that will affect your ability not to be approved is no down payment. And with that being said we are not here to put someone in a car that does not match their ability to pay, we want this to be a successful process that will allow those with credit problems to rebuild their lives. I know they will benefit from this program and they will always come back to us to buy a car.
From what we were told in Toronto, business starts coming in from referrals, from our own customers who find out this program is for real. They usually tell all their family and friends about it. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for someone to come in to us and drive home a nice car and rebuild their credit," adds Doug. Our staff has even told their families and friends to come down and we've notified some local companies and their employees to come down as well to take advantage of these great opportunities to rebuild your credit.
CAR proof HISTORY REPORTS are available on every vehicle. You can drive home with confidence that you know what you are buying. If I were in the market for a quality pre-owned certified vehicle, I would definitely come down early for the best selection."

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Santa promising less in poor economy

Those playing the jolly bearded one during the holidays are hearing more from kids about tough times

A job for their mom or dad. Money for the heating bill. Food or a place to live. Maybe gloves or boots.

More and more, Santas say the children on their laps are asking for less — and Santa is promising less as well.

With unemployment in the U.S. stubbornly high, more homes in foreclosure and the economic outlook dim, many children who visit Santa are all too aware of the struggle to make ends meet.

"These children understand the conditions around the home when they ask for stuff. They understand when there are other children in the family, they need to be cautious or thoughtful of them as well and not ask for 10 to 12 items," said Richard Holden, a 69-year-old Santa from Gastonia, N.C.

Cliff Snider, who's been playing Santa since he was a teenager, agrees.

"I think the parents are saying, 'It's an economic thing. Just list two to three things you really want to have,'" he said. "Parents are trying to encourage the children to be thrifty."

"Families are teaching their children to be as much of a giver as a receiver," said Tom Valent, dean of the Howard Santa school in Midland, Mich., which gets more than 3,000 letters to Santa a year and just graduated its 75th class.

Texan mother Starlight Fonseca has been teaching her five children, ages 5 to 14, "that we're not the only ones who have to cut things back. We're not the only ones struggling."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
- 38.08 (12,081.25)	+ 0.7¢ (99.05¢ US)	+ 29¢ US ($101.28 US)	$3.504 (+ 4.3¢)

Gold contracts $1,731.80 (- $2.70)

TOM COPELAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Santa Claus gets a kiss on the cheek from Bella Champion, 3, during a Christmas photo shoot at the Beach Shack in Emerald Isle, N.C.

Privacy czar warns online advertisers

Online advertisers who balk at following new guidelines for collecting the personal information of web users could become targets of enforcement, Canada's privacy czar said yesterday.

Releasing the guidance document, Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart said Internet users should have the clear choice to say no to being tracked.

"We want people to understand what is going on before their personal information is collected," Stoddart said.

"If we see troubling trends, we will take enforcement action."

At their heart, Stoddart said, the guidelines are aimed at promoting trust among consumers, which means respecting privacy rights when it comes to collecting personal information.

Many Canadians simply don't know they are being tracked as they browse the web, she said.

"Our daily online roaming leaves an expansive trail of digital bread crumbs that are scooped up, analyzed and amalgamated into profiles so that companies can try to sell us more of their goods and services," Stoddart told an advertising-industry conference.

"For the most part, it's happening invisibly."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Privacy commissioner Jennifer Stoddart

New guidelines

- Users must be able to give meaningful consent to being tracked before or at the time their data is collected.
- Users must know why and for what purpose their personal information is being collected.
- Collection of sensitive information such as medical or health data should be avoided.

EU to probe Apple over ebook pricing

The European Union's antitrust watchdog is probing whether Apple helped five major publishing houses illegally raise prices for ebooks when it launched its iPad tablet and iBookstore in 2010.

The probe, announced yesterday by the European Commission, offers a glimpse into the fierce fight for shares of the growing ebook market, especially as Apple has tried to take on Amazon and its Kindle ebook reader. It also highlights the struggle for profits between retailers and publishers, as more and more readers download books electronically.

In particular, the commission is investigating a significant shift in the way the price of ebooks is determined that occurred in 2010, just as Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple introduced the iPad and its own online bookshop, iBookstore.

Apple was the first retailer that allowed publishers to move to so-called agency agreements, which let publishers set the price that online bookshops sell ebooks to consumers.

Until then, publishers were able to set the wholesale price of ebooks, while retailers decided what price to sell them to readers.

"The commission has concerns that these practices may breach EU antitrust rules that prohibit cartels and restrictive business practices," the regulator said in a statement.

The Commission stressed the probe was in its early stages and did not mean the companies actually broke EU competition law.

Apple representative Bethan Lloyd said the company would decline to comment at this time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday cheer is all in the cards: Survey

A survey for Canada Post suggests physical greeting cards are still a favourite Canadian holiday tradition.

Overall, the Harris/Decima survey of around 1,000 Canadian adults found that 75 per cent of respondents plan to send an average of 20 cards this year, compared to 80 per cent sending 19 cards in 2010.

And it suggests 87 per cent of Canadians between 18 and 24 prefer receiving holiday cards in the mail.

About two-thirds of them say a physical card is much more meaningful than an electronic alternative.

However, Canadians between 35 and 44 admitted that they would most likely send cards electronically, mainly due to lack of time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BAH, HUMBUG? BLAME DICKENS FOR CHRISTMAS

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Yikes!

It's only the first week of December and I'm already suffering from an overdose of yule. Barely a minute goes by before some company, be it Mercedes Benz or Victoria's Secret, tries to twist my Christmas goodwill into cash at the till. Santa Claus is more common than the cold, and any turkey that survived Thanksgiving is sure to be done like dinner by Dec. 25.

I blame Charles Dickens, who turns 200 not long after Christmas — Feb. 7, 2012, to be precise. Well, actually he's dead and has been since 1870. But the man who wrote A Christmas Carol is no less responsible for Christmas as we know it.

As you know, as it's impossible to avoid, A Christmas Carol is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable old fart who sees the error of his ways thanks to being haunted by three very memorable ghosts on Christmas Eve, and becomes an improbably wonderful, kind, generous friend to all, especially to Tiny Tim, his clerk's frail little son.

"Historians believe Christmas is largely the result of a mid-Victorian revival prompted by A Christmas Carol."

Historians believe Christmas is largely the result of a mid-Victorian revival prompted by A Christmas Carol. Dickens reintroduced warmth into what had become mainly a religious holiday by immortalizing family feasts, greeting cards, seasonal food and drink, fun and games, and an SUV under every tree.

Even though it was published in 1843, A Christmas Carol is not going away soon. There are 200 million copies in print. It's been made into a movie at least 20 times, the most recent being the 2009 Disney 3-D version starring Jim Carey as Scrooge.

We are bombarded by the imagery and iconography of this Dickensian Christmas. Holly, yule logs, crackling fires (where would we be without the 24-7 fireplace channel on cable?), gift giving, carols and the like have been co-opted into an orgy of commercial excess that now begins on or about Halloween, another festival with pagan roots that's completely out of control.

If we don't spend more to achieve the perfect Dickensian Christmas this year than we did last year, business commentators scold us for lacking consumer confidence and the market drops.

I suspect that Dickens, if confronted with this spectacle, would exclaim, "Bah, humbug" in his best Scrooge, and storm off into the night. After all, despite the vast sums made from the conversion of Scrooge, Dickens only ever saw profits that would equate to a mere $138,275.10 today.

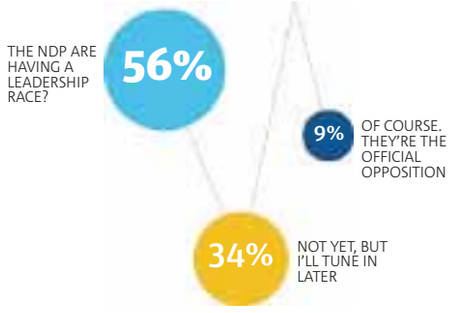
Of course he was the first to try and cash in, writing a Christmas piece in every subsequent year and featuring Scrooge at many of his profitable public readings.

He may have been the first, but he won't be the last. God bless us, everyone.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Metropolitan Panel
Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Have you been following the NDP leadership race?



Local tweets

- **@Alex Moretti7:** This whole realignment this is kinda cool with the four divisions... But why didn't they just switch Winnipeg and Nashville? #TooSimple ?
- **@neilnoonan:** The @NHLJets are now worth 21% more than they did in Atlanta? Wow, I'm proud of #Winnipeg!
- **@JoeYerdonPHT:** Back to Winnipeg with you, buddy. RT @RealKyper Confirmed. Ben Maxwell claimed off waivers by #Jets from the #Ducks
- **@NisaD_:** Just called my parents in Winnipeg who are too busy to talk because they eat breakfast at 11:00 am. Apparently retirement keeps them busy.
- **@John_Gillis:** Did you know? Winnipeg is Cree for "Encase your body in moisturizer or your skin will crack and fall off."
- **@Brittanyyholmes:** when someone says hi to you when you're walking by but you don't realize till you're too far away so you end up ignoring them..f--k
- **@Steveurias:** For Sale: Parachute. Only used once, never opened, small stain.

WILFREDO LEE PHOTOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daily Zoom

Florida crocs make a comeback

A tale of two forces

A wildlife biologist holds a small crocodile that will be released into one of the cooling canals adjacent to the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Homestead, Fla.

An unexpected but fruitful relationship has blossomed between the American crocodile and the nuclear power plant.

The crocodile-monitoring program began in 1978, a year after employees stumbled upon a crocodile nest in the plant's cooling canal system. It turns out that Florida Power and Light was building prime croc habitat just as virtually every other developer was paving it over.

Wildlife officials give the state's largest public utility part of the credit for a five-fold increase in the species' population in Florida.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8 Wildlife biologists use an Avid Microchip Scanner to scan the stomach of a small crocodile. Microchips are used as a reference ID, much like a thumb print, to scan the captured animal, as well as to track any animal that falls prey to others as a result of cannibalism. Biologists said one crocodile was found with eight chips inside its belly.

Endangered

A wildlife biologist measures a small crocodile.

- South Florida's rampant development eroded the crocodile's habitat over decades of booming growth. By the 1970s, there were less than 300 in the state. The federal government had classified the species as endangered, meaning it was in danger of becoming extinct.

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2 scene

HANDOUT

▶ Zac Efron and Michelle Pfeiffer star in the romantic comedy New Year's Eve.

Efron celebrates sharing a movie kiss with Michelle Pfeiffer ◐ They star in New Year's Eve

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

While New Year's Eve isn't the first time Michelle Pfeiffer and Zac Efron have crossed paths on screen — they had a few choice scenes in 2007's Hairspray — it does mark an important milestone in their professional relationship, at least as far as Efron is concerned.

"I met Michelle a few years ago, during Hairspray, and had a huge crush on her — always, from day one. Back then I was very, very young and very bashful, and just around her I tended to put my foot in my mouth a lot. I didn't really know what to say to her, and everything just came out wrong," Efron remembers. "I didn't know what to do. I was very shy. But then I got to talk on the phone with her about this part, I remember. And she said, 'I think we should take this to the next level. We should really push it. Let's get a kiss in there.' And I was like, 'I'm in! I'm in this movie, sign me up. Let's do it.'"

In the film, another romantic comedy omnibus in the style of Valentine's Day from director Gary Marshal, Pfeiffer stars as Ingrid, a mild-mannered office drone brought out of her shell by Efron's brash bike messenger.

"I'm the envy of every girl across the planet, I think. I got a kiss in there with Zac Efron. Pretty clever of me, at the ripe old age of 53," Pfeiffer says.

Efron is the eternal optimist, though, despite having to battle the elements during filming.

"On the plus side, it was basically us snuggling very close. So it was kind of nice," he says of the frigid conditions. "I felt very comforted."

For Efron, the biggest challenge in the film arose when it came time to finally get that kiss with Pfeiffer.

"I remember I was in my hotel room the night before, imagining how I was going to kiss her, and it was awesome. I was the man in every way," he says.

"And then I went to execute on the day, and right when I got to the crucial moment a huge piece of confetti flew right into my mouth."

Better luck next year.

Mueller

A Colorado judge will let actor Charlie Sheen's ex-wife, Brooke Mueller, to return to California following her arrest in Aspen on assault and drug charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SITTING THROUGH A FAMILIAR FILM

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Wikipedia says "babysitting is commonly performed as an odd job by teenagers for extra money." While that is undoubtedly the stereotype, the movies have shown us that babysitters come in all shapes and sizes.

This weekend Jonah Hill plays an irresponsible college student who reluctantly looks after his neighbour's wild kids. How wild is it? Well, let's put it this way; I don't think Nanny McPhee had a "red band" trailer.

If it sounds familiar, it should. Twenty-four years ago babysitter Elisabeth Shue led her young charges through the streets of Chicago in Adventures in Babysitting. At one point they end up on a nightclub stage. The leader of the house band, played by blues legend Albert Collins, says, "Nobody leaves this place without singing the blues."

After an awkward pause she improvises the Babysitting Blues.

"It's so hard babysitting these guys," she sings. "And they should be in bed," replies the guitar player over a classic blues-rock riff.

The most lovable movie minder has to be John Candy as Uncle Buck. Even though he pretends to be capable of mutilation with power tools, he's less violent than Rebecca De Mornay in The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, manlier than Robin Williams in Mrs. Doubtfire and more alive than all the babysitters in Halloween.

In the movie's most famous scene he answers a barrage of questions from his nephew, played by Macaulay Culkin.

On the day of filming the younger actor couldn't remember all the questions, so Candy wrote them out and hid them where Culkin could read them. Now that's something a great babysitter would do.

Rango, Rio, Puss, Tintin earn Annie nominations for best animated film

The Shore gets another scent

- JWOWW is latest celeb to release signature fragrance
- 'Sexy perfume' reeks of classy rebranding, 'the shore'

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Not to be outdone by fellow Jersey Shore cast-member Snooki releasing her own perfume, busty reality star JWoww is releasing her own signature fragrance, too.

The perfume, also called JWoww, comes out just in time for the holiday season, retailing at such choice outlets as Kmart, Amazon.com and JWoww-Perfume.com.

According to the press release, JWoww is a "sexy perfume inspired by days and nights down the shore" (note the New Jersey colloquialism "down the shore," which means "at the beach").

Just in case we can fool ourselves into thinking this scent wasn't created by a bunch of Chinese child labourers mixing together a bunch of synthetic compounds into something resembling "sweet," there's even a hilarious run down of the "notes" in the $29.99 bottle:

Top notes: Anjou pear, sparkling citron, fresh air

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jenni "JWOWW" Farley attends the MTV Europe Music Awards 2011 last month in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Middle notes: Rose petals, geranium blossom, sheer muguet

Bottom notes: Sandalwood, deep musk, white moss

A tiny gold JWOWW charm adorns the sleek bottle, which was also created by JWoww.

I love that "fresh air" is included as one of the predominant "notes," in place of, say, "vomit after a night of Red Bull, 2 a.m. chicken wings, and half a case of Miller Lite," which is what I think of when we think of smells "inspired by days and nights down the shore."

Depp's bodyguard accused of assault

The Los Angeles Police Department is interested in speaking with Johnny Depp after one of his bodyguards was accused of assaulting a disabled woman at an Iggy Pop concert last week, according to TMZ.

According to the filed complaint, Robyn Ecker — who paid $600 for her tickets to the concert — claims a member of Depp's entourage grabbed her wrists and wrestled her to the ground after she was dancing too close to his VIP table.

▶ Johnny Depp

Ecker went to the hospital before filing the complaint. METRO

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3 life

Travel in brief

Readers of Global Traveler magazine have voted Air Canada the best airline in North America. The award is based on responses from more than 36,000 readers of the magazine. Global Traveler readers are frequent premium travellers who average 32 round-trip flights a year, with 78 per cent travelling in first or business class regularly. Air Canada says winning the loyalty of premium customers is a priority for all carriers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ski resorts around world use artist's hand-painted panoramas in their trail maps

MARK EVELEIGH

First Tango in Buenos Aires

EMMA E. FORREST
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

I've been in Buenos Aires for less than an hour and already I'm feeling the bizarre atmosphere of addiction and romance that's at the heart of the world of tango.

"It used to be just Argentines who danced tango," my taxi driver is enthusing. "Now people come from Australia, Canada, Europe... even Korea and Japan."

Tango attracts particularly dedicated — not to say fanatical — followers and for millions of people the Argentine capital has become the ultimate place of pilgrimage.

Private tango tuition rather than group classes is considered a must, so I'm partnered with fellow tango-virgin, Turkish TV presenter Asli Pelit, for my first foray into the dance. We take our first tentative baby steps as tangueros on Susana Mirosmik's little terrace as steaks sizzle on the parilla (barbecue), which will be a welcome reward for our efforts.

Susana has been dancing tango for more than 20 years and is one of the most well-known faces in the tango scene here. "You must learn to walk before you can dance," she says as she shows us how to move. "A graceful walk is the very basics of the dance."

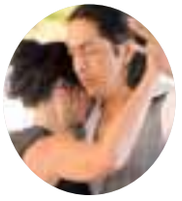
We move in carefully measured circles around the terrace and begin to grasp the meditative aspect that aficionados claim is the essence of the tango experience.

Some come to Buenos Aires to watch spectacular tango exhibitions or to spend a fortune on months of private lessons. Some dedicated pilgrims come simply to immerse themselves in the serenity of the milongas. These are traditional local dances where the purest tango can be found, and Susana guides us to a milonga at La Nacional. Alcohol consumption is low and voices lower still. The men affect the stance of gentleman matadors and the women demure debutantes. On the dance floor any exuberant exhibitionism is frowned upon. Poise and reserve are the keys to acceptance at a traditional milonga like this.

I'm aware that elegance and matador poise are yet to establish a permanent place in my psyche, but under Susana's guidance I'm at least able to appreciate the under-stated subtleties of milonga footwork.

I might only be on my first steps to tango expertise but it feels good to be able to say that I have at least learned to really walk in Buenos Aires.

TAKES THREE TO TANGO



LEARN

- Susana Mirosmik is arguably the best contact to set up tango lessons in Buenos Aires. Her company Su Tours can also arrange everything from tango instructions to accommodation and weeklong tours of upcountry Argentina. **sutours.blogspot.com**

PARTIES

- Some of the most recommended milongas — traditional local tango dances — are La Nacional, El Arranque and La Ideal. Milongas cost around $5 admission and many include an hour of tuition at the beginning. **buenosaires-milongas.com**

SHOWS

- The most famous and spectacular tango shows can be seen at Rojo Tango (from $220; rojo-tango.com), at La Ventana Tango (from $90; tangotix.com) and La Esquina Carlos Gardel (esquinacarlosgardel.com.ar).

Season was made for cookies

The holidays are all about tasty sweets and treats These can be frozen for up to 1 month

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

not only can be enjoyed fresh but they freeze well and are perfect to share at a cookie exchange.

Preparation:

1. In bowl, whisk flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, soda and salt.
2. In another bowl beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in egg and sour cream. Stir espresso powder into vanilla, add to butter mix; beat to combine.
3. Stir in flour mix and stir until combined. Stir in cocoa nibs and chocolate chips until combined. Roll level tablespoon (15 mL) of dough into a ball and roll into icing sugar and place on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake in centre of 350 F (180 C) oven for about 10 minutes or until top is cracked and firm to the touch. Repeat with remaining dough. Let cool in pan on rack. **EMILY IS A HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & CHEF (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

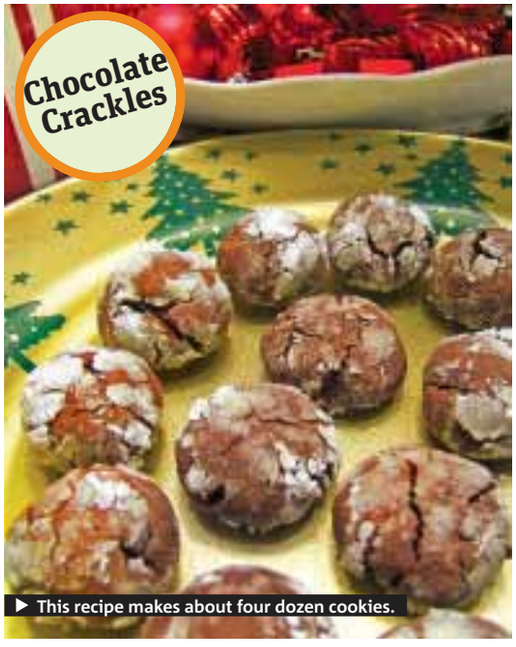
Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 cups (550 mL) all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each baking powder and soda
- Pinch salt
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sour cream
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) vanilla
- 1 tsp (5 mL) instant espresso powder
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) cocoa nibs
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) icing sugar

Holiday prep

We're here to help
Every Wednesday until Christmas, Metro's Emily Richards will provide you tips to make the holiday whirlwind less stressful.

EMILY RICHARDS



This recipe makes about four dozen cookies.

Drink of the week

Clementine Rosemary Martini

- 2 oz dry gin
- 1 oz Lillet Blanc
- 1 clementine, quartered
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 1 tsp lemon simple syrup
- Candied lemon peel

Muddle clementine, including peel, with needles from rosemary sprig. Add other ingredients, shake with ice, and strain into cold martini glass. Garnish with another sprig and a small amount of candied lemon peel.

Note: To make candied lemon peel and simple syrup, peel 3 lemons (avoiding white pith) and thinly slice. Boil strips with 500 ml water and 2 cups sugar until lemon turns translucent. Strain lemon out and let dry on baking tray. Add little water to leftover lemon syrup if needed.

JOE HOWELL, TORONTO BARTENDER/MIXOLOGIST

My favourite spot in Canada

JESSICA HOLMES: LAND O'LAKES REGION, ONT.

My family has been renting cottages in the Land O' Lakes region for more than 30 years. It's a tough area to describe, because the only towns nearby are likely ones too small to show up on most maps: Harlowe, Cloyne, Northbrook... So for arguments sake, let's just say it's in a heavily-treed area about three hours northeast of Toronto. Not to be mistaken for Muskoka, this area doesn't have five-star resorts. It's more like trailer parks and church bean bakes, but we decided it's home away from home for us, and last year we bought a trailer at the park where I've been cottaging every summer since I was a kid. What it lacks in prestige, it makes up for in serenity and convenience. It's our slice of heaven.

MATHEWINGRAM/FLICKR

BEST KNOWN FOR HER WORK ON ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE, JESSICA HOLMES IS CURRENTLY STARRING IN ROSS PETTY'S HOLIDAY PANTO VERSION OF THE WIZARD OF OZ, AT THE ELGIN THEATRE.

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STUDENT VOICE

ASAD CHISHTI
TALENTEGG.CA

The more I want something, the less I call it work.

There is, in my experience, no reason in this day and age for you to be working at a place or doing something you don't enjoy.

The career you do want to pursue requires now, more than ever, that you create your own experience.

Too many of my friends all across Canada are struggling after graduation to find work, struggling during university to find placements that aren't voluntary for their co-op terms, and are trying to find work in the summer and being turned down from hundreds of job postings relevant to their field of study.

As a second year engineering chemistry student at Queen's University, I'm not sure what the future holds for my career path.

Some of the graduates from my program go into consulting, some go into research and development, a few outliers become entrepreneurs — most return to school for graduate studies.

But it seems like to get a job, networking matters. The jobs that I've held have been both part-time and referred to me by people who worked there.

It is no surprise that fresh undergraduates are now competing not only among each other but also among more qualified, more experienced veterans of the job industry.

It's important to find an edge over the competition and to stand out by creating an outlet for your passion and future career. I believe we can take charge of our own future by getting involved now.

Because I think it's very important to dabble and supplement my studies with as many skills as possible, and I'm very involved in extra-curricular activities. I'm the assistant photo editor for the Queen's Journal, Canada's second oldest newspaper.

I help run an annual independently-organized TED talks event, TEDxQueensU.

Along with this, I've founded and am currently the chapter President of Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) Queen's University Chapter.

Employers need to look past the grades and the degrees. Students should be hired based on their ability to learn, not based on what they've already learned.

Watch out for the students who are already taking on different roles and establishing relationships.

Asad Chishti encourages employers to take note of a student's involvement in extra-curricular activities rather than simply considering their work experience.

The university experience is not just about your transcript, it's about the people you meet and the opportunities you have as an individual to grow outside the classroom setting.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Asad's experience

- Don't be afraid to be non-traditional, to step outside of the classroom and learn from there.
- Your grades do matter of course, but university is also about the friends you find and the relationships that bind.
- Keep your options open, get involved early and if you can't find an opportunity, create one.

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BOTCH FIRING, PAY A PRICE

Context plays key role in case of employee dismissal

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

When Rashid Balogun announced that he was "out of here" and then swiftly left the Prince George offices of Deloitte & Touche after a confrontational meeting with two of his bosses, they figured that he had just resigned. But in a legal twist that can only happen in workplace law, the court decided otherwise.

Soon after his hiring, Balogun believed he deserved a significant raise. However, according to his manager, his performance did not yet warrant more money.

The issue soon blossomed into a conflict. Before a performance review, Balogun was told that there were concerns with his performance and that he would not receive a raise. This did not sit well with Balogun. According to the judge, he became so fixated on his salary that he paid little attention to concerns that were raised about his performance.

During the performance review, Balogun was asked about his future at Deloitte.

He swiftly replied that he was "out of here" before leaving the meeting and the workplace. Believing that Balogun had just resigned, Deloitte sent him a formal letter, indicating that he had "quit."

After a recent trial, a judge found that Balogun had not yet resigned when he left the office. Although Balogun's statement and actions could be consistent with a resignation, Deloitte failed to consider the context. When he left work, it was at the end of the workday, and Balogun was in a hurry to leave for the airport because he was beginning a vacation. In these circumstances, it was not clear whether Balogun was quitting, so by sending him a letter accusing him of resigning, Deloitte effectively fired him. Instead, Deloitte should have asked Balogun to confirm his alleged resignation in writing to eliminate any uncertainty. However, in my view, it was hoping he would never return. Agreeing with me, the court awarded him damages for wrongful dismissal.

Although Balogun won his case, by following these simple steps, the confusion could have been avoided: immediately protest a characterization that there has been a resignation, if you didn't intend to resign and resist taking any steps that can be construed as voluntarily withdrawing from the workplace, until you can seek legal advice.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.

Holiday bonus?

Is your office on Santa's good list this year? In these unstable financial times, it may not matter

JULIA WEST
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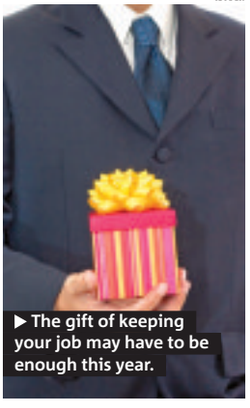
MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

ISTOCK



▶ The gift of keeping your job may have to be enough this year.

When your job security is already on shaky ground, hinting at end-of-year bonuses in front of your boss may not be the best bet.

"For some companies, the economy is still dicey. For those that will give bonuses, the amounts will be all over the place," says Michael Galey, an attorney in the Philadelphia office of Fisher & Phillips, a national firm that represents employers.

Keep in mind that a bonus is just that: a little something extra that companies provide if they can. Your padded paycheck depends on your company's financial ability.

"As owner of Between the Bread, I have held back on giving bonuses for the past two years. And unfortunately I am not planning on giving bonuses this year either," says Ricky Eisen of this year's situation at his Manhattan catering company.

"The extremely difficult economic climate has necessitated the constant weighing and shifting of priorities and prompts questions like, 'Do we keep all of our staff employed? Do we let some go, and give modest bonuses to the remaining employees? Do we hold onto the cash we accrued over the year? Or do we give the cash as bonuses and start the year with less operating and emergency cash?'"

On the other hand, a study developed by Robert Half International polled 1,250 senior executives employed at firms that gave bonuses last year and found that of those interviewed, 30 per cent expected to give even bigger bonuses than they did last year.

Kingdom of the Netherlands

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Vincent van Gogh goes to school

A Canada wide school project with great opportunities

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Ever heard of a guy called Vincent van Gogh? The famous Dutch artist who was born more than 150 years ago in the Netherlands and who became known as an innovator in the art world. If you have heard of him, did you ever wonder how it would be to follow in his footsteps and use your own creativity just as he did? The Netherlands Embassy and its network in Canada invite teachers and students to participate in the 'Vincent van Gogh goes to school' project, which will run from February – June 2012. The project is designed for children between the ages of 6 and 16 years old. Both elementary and high schools can join.

The school project coincides with Vincent's visit to Canada in the spring of 2012: the National Gallery of Canada, located in the capital Ottawa, will host 'Van Gogh: Up Close' from May 25 – September 3 (2012). It will be the first major Canadian exhibition of works by the famous Dutch artist for more than 25 years.

Useful teacher's kit
Join us right now and we will send a teacher's kit including the 'See and Do Children's Book' from Cecile de Bie and Martijn Leenen, a dvd about the life of 'Vincent van Gogh' to use in a class room setting. The teacher's kit will be distributed on a first come first served principle; last entries no later than January 17, 2012.

Learn, explore and experience
- **Learn** together with schools in the Netherlands that are participating in this project and would like to connect with schools in Canada.
- **Explore** possibilities of the 'Vincent van Gogh goes to school' project in your own class: it is not just about art per se. Van Gogh can be a history project, a biology project or even a language class.
- **Experience** the Netherlands and discover interesting facts about the Dutch, their country and the friendship with Canada.

Make - with your classmates and with the support of your teacher – an awesome painting of sunflowers; write a letter to Vincent; or, how about using your creativity to produce a movie, a rap, a comic, a poster, a board game or a picture? Increase your chances to win by uploading a video, a song, or a picture to the specially designed fvincentincanada Facebook page from the Netherlands Embassy. Students can also sign up individually and will be organized in the appropriate age category. The Sun Flowers – age group 6 – 10; The Irises – age group 10 – 13 and The Wild Roses – age group 13 – 16.

Are you in?
For more information on this project, to register and to receive the kit, send an email to:
ott-ppc@minbuza.nl
For all the details about the contest:
scan the QR code or go to
Facebook.com/thenetherlandsincanada

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4 sports

Quoted

"He's not the only guy."

MIAMI MARLINS OWNER JEFFREY LORIA, SAYING THAT ALBERT PUJOLS, ABOVE, WAS NOT THE ONLY BIG NAME FREE AGENT THE CLUB WAS CHASING. BASEBALL'S NEW BIG FISH WERE THE TALK OF THE WINTER MEETINGS YESTERDAY, WITH TEAMS WONDERING HOW CLOSE THE MARLINS WERE TO AN AGREEMENT WITH PUJOLS ON A DEAL THAT COULD BE WORTH $200 MILLION OR MORE OVER 10 YEARS FOR THE THREE-TIME NL MVP.

Scan code for more sports news.

MARIANNE HELM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Boston goalie Tuuka Rask tries to watch the play past a cluster of Jets and Bruins players at MTS Centre last night.

Jets chop down champs

Winnipeg hands Boston its first regulation defeat in over a month

JETS	BRUINS
2	1

Ondrej Pavelec made 39 saves and Bryan Little scored the game-winner as the Winnipeg Jets beat the red-hot Boston Bruins 2-1 last night.

It was the Bruins' first regulation loss since Oct. 29, ending a 15 game stretch in which they earned 29 of a possible 30 points.

The Jets (12-11-4) moved above the .500 mark for the first time this season, and have won six of their last seven games at MTS Centre.

Little scored the winner 94 seconds after Shawn Thornton had tied the game for Boston (17-8-1). Little controlled the puck off a neutral-zone faceoff, went the length of the ice and beat Tuukka Rask to the glove side, sending the sell-out crowd into a frenzy.

The goal came just six seconds after David Krejci flattened Jets defenceman Mark Stuart into the end boards from behind. Krejci and Zach Bogosian were in the penalty box for offsetting roughing minors after the hit, which left Stuart face down and motionless on the ice. Stuart did return to the game.

Pavelec withstood a flurry in the final minutes of the game to preserve the lead. Rask made 33 saves for the Bruins.

The Bruins tied the game three minutes into the third, when Jets forward Jason Jaffray turned the puck over in his own zone and Thornton tipped in a shot from Daniel Paille.

Earlier in that shift, Bruins captain Zdeno Chara handed the puck to Carl Klingberg in front of the Bruins net, but the Jets forward couldn't beat Rask.

Jets captain Andrew Ladd opened the scoring late in the first period with a perfect snap shot to the top corner from outside the left faceoff dot past Rask's blocker.

The Bruins had the better chances in a scoreless second period, but Pavelec made several acrobatic saves. The best of his 17 saves in the period came off Krejci as he slid across his crease to prevent the tying goal.

The Jets conclude their five-game home stand on Friday night against Carolina. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays land White Sox closer in trade

The Toronto Blue Jays acquired closer Sergio Santos from the Chicago White Sox yesterday, bringing the pitcher back to the organization where he spent three seasons trying to make the majors as a shortstop.

Toronto gave up pitching prospect Nestor Molina to acquire the 28-year-old Santos in a swap made at baseball's winter meetings.

Santos earned 30 saves in 36 chances last season, going 4-5 with a 3.55 earned-run average in 63 games. The 28-year-old righty is a strikeout pitcher, fanning 92 in 65⅓ innings. He made a major league-record 25 straight scoreless appearances on the road to start the season.

Santos was golfing when Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos called to tell him about the trade. The deal caught Santos by surprise — a few days after the season ended, he signed an $8.25-million US, three-year contract with the White Sox. Santos said he's "glad to be back" with the Blue Jays.

"I'm excited to be moving to a new team and (one that's) going in the direction that Toronto is going in," Santos said on a conference call.

Santos was in Toronto's minor league system from 2006-08 as a shortstop. He converted to pitching in 2009 while in the White Sox organization and made his big league debut the next year.

Anthopoulos was the Blue Jays' assistant GM when Santos was in their organization. The team asked Santos if he wanted to take a try on the mound, but he wasn't interested.

"He didn't want to pitch. He believed in himself as a shortstop," Anthopoulos said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ED ZURGA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sergio Santos

NHL shuffle gets the thumbs up

Players looking forward to shakeup after proposed realignment **Some concerns about playoff spots**

NHL players largely seem in favour of a proposed realignment plan that will require the support of their union before taking effect next season.

The major four-conference shakeup endorsed by the NHL's Board of Governors had players abuzz in dressing rooms around the league yesterday. Some were still getting a handle on what it meant and a few voiced concerns, but the overall reception was positive.

"It looks pretty fair," said Montreal Canadiens defenceman Hal Gill. "It's a little different. But it's not going to be perfect. Unfortunately, the map doesn't lend itself to perfect. You don't want to take away too many rivalries so you have to figure it out."

The aspect of the proposal that elicited the most excitement from players was a new schedule matrix that includes a game in every city around the league.

Since the lockout ended in 2005, teams in the Eastern and Western Conference haven't played each other home and away each season.

"I've played almost 100 games in the league and there are still teams I haven't played yet," said Ottawa Senators forward Zack Smith. "I think it's good to get around and see everybody and go to every city. I think fans will really enjoy it as well. They get to see a lot of the stars in the East, but this way they'll be able to see some of those guys in the West."

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Evander Kane is looking forward to playing more often in his hometown of Vancouver.

Added Winnipeg Jets winger Evander Kane: "I get to go to Vancouver, my hometown, every year which is nice. But it will definitely be a new look to the league."

One area of concern is the fact that two conferences feature eight teams while the two others have seven.

That represents a significant competitive disadvantage since the same number of teams (four) will qualify for the playoffs in each conference.

"Personally, I'd like to have the same shot at making the playoffs as everybody else," said Flames winger Alex Tanguay. "If you're in one of those conference that has eight teams, it's definitely going to be much tougher that (those with) seven teams to make the playoffs.

"I don't know how they can make that work. I'm sure there's a solution."

Added Vancouver Canucks forward Alex Burrows: "That's wrong for me. I'm old-school."

The realignment model proposed by the league owners on Monday night must still gain approval from the NHL Players' Association. However, that isn't expected to be a major obstacle.

An added benefit for players based in the West is the perception that the playing field will be levelled a little bit. The new plan calls for Eastern teams to be on the road more often than they have been in the recent past.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VIDEO TEACHES SMART HOCKEY

EDUCATION CAN LEAD TO PREVENTION

That's one of the main messages being shared across the country by ThinkFirst, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of brain and spinal cord injuries.

Thanks to the launch of the ThinkFirst Smart Hockey video, minor hockey players and coaches now have an easy resource to learn how to prevent, identify and return to play after a concussion.

"I think any parent or child that plays hockey should watch the video," said Darrell Herrick, co-ordinator of the Calgary chapter of ThinkFirst. "It's just so valuable to understand how to play hockey smart."

During the Scotiabank Girls HockeyFest at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Nov. 6, Herrick was on hand to man an information booth.

"They played the Smart Hockey video before Cassie Campbell talked," Herrick said. "The one big area is we need education. When players and coaches understand concussions, I think we see a decrease in the plays that create concussions."

Campbell appears in the video along with fellow hockey players Tessa Bonhomme, Caroline Ouellette, John Tavares, Patrice Bergeron and Tyler Myers.

Dr. Pat McDonald, who is the director of the Manitoba chapter of ThinkFirst, said he was happy that members of Canada's national women's team were involved with the video in addition to NHL players.

"It's not just boys' hockey, it's girls' hockey," McDonald said. "I think we have to make sure that we're being role models to everybody."

McDonald referred to the Smart Hockey video as an excellent learning tool.

"Sometimes we'll get kids who don't even think of anything of when they were hit and then a couple days later they're nauseated and they've got headaches and dizziness," he said. "My best advice is that if they've got any doubt at all, to get it checked out by a physician."

The Smart Hockey video, booklet and concussion kit can all be downloaded at thinkfirst.ca/programs/hockey.

– By Laurence Heinen

PREVENTION SAVES LIVES

While training to become a neurosurgeon in Toronto, Dr. Pat McDonald learned under ThinkFirst Canada founder Dr. Charles Tator.

"As a surgeon you only impact on one individual at a time and some of the work he's done with ThinkFirst has saved more lives and injuries … more than he saved as a surgeon because you can only do it one at a time," McDonald said.

When he moved to Winnipeg 10 years ago, McDonald got involved with the Manitoba chapter of ThinkFirst and now serves as its director.

"(Tator) was a big influence on me and when the opportunity came up here I kind of jumped at it," McDonald said. "It's a good time for the educational aspect of concussion prevention."

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Engine

The base 328i sedan's previous 230-horsepower inline six-cylinder has been replaced by a 240-horsepower 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder.

The powerplant, which is also showing up in other BMW products, including the larger 5 Series and Z4 roadster, makes 260 pound-feet of torque and can propel the 3 Series sedan to 100 km/h in about six seconds, which is just a touch longer than the 335i's time. That model retains its 300-horsepower six-cylinder turbocharged engine.

Dynamics Control

Standard on all models is a Driving Dynamics Control with four different settings, according to how vigorously you wish to pilot your Bimmer. The most fuel-efficient setting is the ECO PRO mode that, when activated, cuts the horsepower to save fuel (as much as 20 per cent, according to BMW). In ECO PRO, a special instrument-panel display indicates how far the 3's range has been extended.

Fuel efficiency

An electric air conditioning compressor functions on a demand-only basis and a new feature shuts off the engine when you're stopped at intersections, red lights and other gridlock-related pauses, then instantly fires it up again when it's time to roll.

To offset the added power needs, the 3 Series features Brake Energy Regeneration. This system converts the kinetic energy produced when coasting or braking into electrical energy, which is then fed to the battery.

▶ Trust BMW to find a way to deal with restrictions while still providing a better car. But can the 3 Series please everyone?

BMW's franchise player hopes to remain a leader

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Arriving in early 2012, the car that's literally "The Franchise" for BMW seems headed in an entirely new direction.

If nothing else, the 3 Series has kept up with the times, which call for significant improvements in fuel economy as well as a treadlightly footprint that reaffirms and enhances BMW's environmental awareness.

At the same time, BMW must maintain the passion and performance that has helped its star performer maintain its top-rung status.

The 2012 3 Series walks the walk in fine style. The sleeker-looking sedan is nearly nine centimetres longer and about five centimetres wider overall.

The changes to the car's basic shape mean a low-slung appearance, especially the front end that's more aerodynamic than the 2011 version.

But important for those who appreciate unrestricted views of the passing scenery, the 3 Series maintains its sensible low-waist, tall-window design along with thin roof and door pillars.

In an ever-changing environment — business and otherwise — the BMW 3 Series has adapted while still giving drivers precisely what they expect: a car that keeps up with times and continues as a technology, performance and fashion leader.

▶ Extra distance between the front and rear wheels means more cabin room, which is welcome because the 3 Series is not a very big car.

▶ Covered in plastic and tubing, what you can't see is the fact the new base engine has just four cylinders. It's turbocharged, which means there's more power on hand when needed than what the previous base six-cylinder provided.

BMW 3 Series

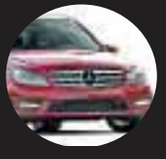
What you should know about the 2012 BMW 3 Series sedan:

- **Type:** Four-door, rear-wheel-drive entry-luxury sedan.
- **Engines (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (240); 3.0-litre DOHC I6, turbocharged (300).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual; eight-speed automatic (opt.).
- **Market position:** BMW's range of 3 Series offerings are considered among the best entry-luxury sedans on the market and are frequently used by competing automakers as benchmarks for similarly targeted automobiles.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.0/6.5 (2.0, AT, est.).

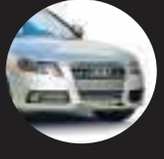
5 drive

By comparison

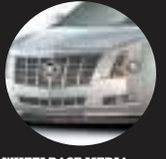
Mercedes-Benz C-Class
Base price: $38,000
Classy sedan offers something for everyone in content and performance.



Audi A4
Base price: $39,300
Competent sedan with a neatly styled interior. Base turbo I4 runs strong.



Cadillac CTS
Base price: $38,500
Sharp looks and comfy cabin keeps buyers happy. CTS-V a very quick ride.



WHEELBASE MEDIA

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Kicking off Canada's motorcycle show season

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
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What can you do if you're a motorcycle enthusiast, but the weather's colder and bleaker than the heart of a Wall Street CEO? Head to a motorcycle show.

Curiously, you can also head to a motorcycle show, if you're a beef jerky enthusiast. I don't know why beef jerky vendors always set up at the edges of any motorcycle show floor, but they do, and God bless them and their dedication to the meat arts.

This winter's motorcycle/jerky show season starts this weekend in Toronto. The action will take place in the South Building of the Metro Convention Centre, from Friday, Dec. 9 to Sunday, Dec. 11.

This is the show run by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal.

Avid motorcycle types know that Toronto hosts two major motorcycle shows.

The other one happens after the New Year, bills itself as the Supershow, and takes over the International Centre by the airport. No sense arguing over which one rules, let's just revel in the fact that we have two high quality cyclefests to check out when it's too chilly to ride.

Topping the list of bikes I want to check out at this weekend's show is Norton's addition to their Commando 961 line up — the Cafe Racer. Not quite as pretty as the original, but pretty darn close.

Retro is big business these days, but especially in the motorcycle industry, where the average buyer is in their mid-forties!

Where are the younger riders?

I put that question to Neil Graham, editor of Cycle Canada. While he is not sure where they are, or how big a group they currently comprise in the marketplace, he is "encouraged" at least by the industry's efforts to reach out to them. He cites all the new small, entry-level bikes currently in the marketplace. Bikes like Honda's CBR125R and CBR250R, Kawasaki's Ninja 250R and Ninja 400R, and the just released Suzuki TU250.

Women buyers are also still scarce on the ground. But Graham believes the number, however small, is at least trending up. No surprise then that the MMIC show in Toronto is "young rider" and "female rider" friendly.

She Rides Night (on Friday evening) will be a celebration of women who ride or who are considering taking up the sport.

And the Yamaha Riding Academy will be on site, to give 6-12 year olds a spin on a Yamaha TT-R offroad motorcycle, and to teach the older-folk (16 and up) how to ride a scooter. (Yamaha will also give away a motorcycle or ATV to the lucky winner of a show floor draw.)

But rest assured there are plenty of testosterone-friendly events and bikes too. Harley-Davidson will role out its heavy metal thunder, and also present an autograph session with UFC fighters Jake Shields and Brendan Schaub, and "Octagon Girl" Brittney Palmer. BMW will show off the S1000RR superbike and its new line of super scooters — the C600 Sport, and the C650T.

Honda will bring its new NC700 parallel twin, and the beautiful MV Augusta F3 675 will make its first Canadian appearance at the show.

Those are just a few of the cool bikes that make the show scene this weekend. According to MMIC there will be over 140 exhibitors. So surely something for everybody then, whatever your budget, desires, or meat eating tendencies.

The MV Augusta F3 675 is set to make its first Canadian appearance this weekend in Toronto.

Sked

MMIC Motorcycle Show Schedule

- **Toronto** Dec. 9-11, 2011, Metro Toronto Convention Centre.
- **Calgary** Jan. 6-8, 2012, BMO Centre Stampede Park.
- **Edmonton** Jan. 13-15, Expo Centre, Northlands.
- **Vancouver** Jan. 19-22, Tradex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford.
- **Quebec City** Feb. 3-5, Centre de foires de Quebec (site ExpoCite).
- **Moncton** Feb 10-12, Moncton Coliseum Complex.
- **Montreal** Feb 24-26, Palais des congres de Montreal.

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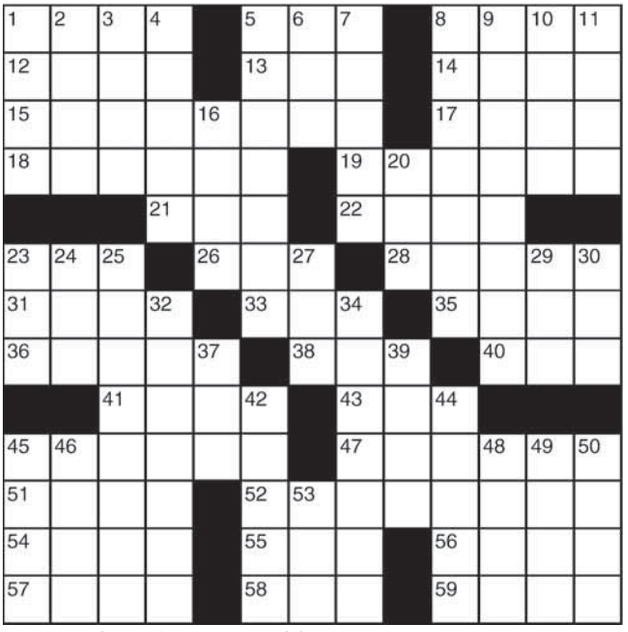
Crossword



Across

1 Houston acronym
5 Sternward
8 Streetcar
12 Winged
13 — goo gai pan
14 Like a moray
15 End of an illness
17 Performances
18 Sycophants
19 Implant
21 Help
22 Entrance
23 Melody
26 Allow
28 Wild West show
31 "Star —"
33 Flop
35 Ginormous
36 Unspoken
38 Wager
40 Decay
41 Rhyming tributes
43 Airport overseer (Abbr.)
45 Move up and down
47 Busy
51 Gumbo need
52 Flinched
54 Nasty stinger
55 Cistern
56 Journalist Lisa
57 Caustic chemicals
58 Acapulco gold
59 London gallery name

Down

1 — a soul (nobody)
2 Sheltered
3 Pouches
4 Scent
5 Rewrote the Constitution
6 Supportive of
7 Monkeyed (with)
8 Quaint restaurant
9 Flute's cousin
10 Sax range
11 1990s video game
16 Bride's cover
20 Neither partner
23 Lawyer (Abbr.)
24 Playwright Levin
25 Source of help
27 Bathroom fixture
29 Id counterpart
30 Morsel for Dobbin
32 Abducts
34 Actually
37 Sleuth, for short
39 Mexican entree
42 Electronic control system, briefly
44 At an angle
45 Cheek by —
46 Fine
48 Hip bones
49 Outlet
50 Advantage
53 Listener

▶ Yesterday's answer

L	A	M	E		P	L	Y		W	A	L	K
E	V	I	L		L	I	E		I	R	O	N
W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S		L	E	G	O
D	D	T		D	I	E		B	L	A	S	T
			W	E	T		P	O	I			
E	L	V	I	S		Q	U	O	N	D	A	M
M	O	I	L		K	E	G		G	A	Z	E
S	T	A	L	K	E	D		E	L	B	O	W
			P	A	Y		H	A	Y			
A	A	R	O	N		N	O	R		S	H	E
B	L	O	W		W	I	L	L	I	W	A	W
E	A	S	E		A	C	E		F	I	R	E
T	E	A	R		S	K	Y		A	M	P	S

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

			5	4		8	2	9
				8			1	7
		5				6		
6			2				8	
		1				3		
	9				3			6
		7				4		
4	8			1				
3	6	9		7	2			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	6	2	3	7	1	9	4	8
9	7	8	4	5	2	3	6	1
1	4	3	9	8	6	7	5	2
3	1	7	6	2	9	4	8	5
2	5	6	8	4	7	1	3	9
8	9	4	1	3	5	6	2	7
7	2	1	5	6	4	8	9	3
4	3	5	7	9	8	2	1	6
6	8	9	2	1	3	5	7	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Haileywailey, you are the most epic person i know. I don't even know what to say, so all i can say is, i love you. From the day u stole my meesh til now. I hope you see this and know how special you are. :)
YOUR ONE AND ONLY

Peaches, Missing you so very much. Not even sure if you read these...wish I could turn back the clock & make different choices. Sorry to have caused you pain. Please find it in your heart to call, even if to say how much you hate me. God, I miss you. **ME**

To my friends: You guys mean so much to me. You've helped me through a lot. We have our ups and downs but our friendship is still going strong. You have my back and if you need it you know i have yours.
YOU KNOW WHO

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -11°	Min -21°	Min -12°
Max -7°	Max -13°	Max -12°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Your critics can complain all they want, but there's no stopping you from following your dream.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you stop worrying for a moment and analyze your financial situation, you'll realize it could be worse.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 A partner will say something that'll show you there's a lot about him or her you still don't understand.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Spread the load today — get others to help you. They will, if you ask them nicely.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You don't lack confidence but common sense is just as important, so think carefully before you take a big risk.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Minor disagreements could easily get out of hand over the next 24 hours. Don't rise to the bait.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You may be tempted to blame someone else when something goes wrong today. Instead, admit it's your fault.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Watch out that you don't waste money on trendy things you don't need today. Set your own trends.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Your energy levels are high. What is your number one desire? Aim for that and nothing else.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you're fearful, it won't be until the Sun moves into your sign in a fortnight that you'll feel better.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You'll have to be blunt with people who are unaware that you don't want to be bothered with trivia.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Whatever the upset or upheaval today, take it in stride. Don't let it faze you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

JOHN RAOUX/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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